

NFWB takes bite out of national competition



World Series participants: Members of the Cobras 14-under girls fast-pitch softball team include: (front row, left to right) Lauren Ouellette, Danielle Bongoro, Kristin Schrock, Kelly Taylor; (back row, left to right) Patty Kolinski, Monica Booth, Hilary Goldin, Beth Danielewicz, Lindsey Taub, Kristin Grewe; (kneeling) coach Tom Ouellette; (back row, left row) coaches Mark Danielewicz and Les Taub.

The 14-year-old North Farmington West Bloomfield Cobras girls fast-pitch softball team finished among the top 25 teams at the 88-team National Softball Association World Series July 21-26.

The Cobras had a 3-2 record. They beat Nebraska, 7-0, Georgia, 7-6 in extra innings, and Tennessee, 6-5; they lost to Indiana, 7-5, and Carolina, 7-1.

This was the team's second-straight year in the World Series.

One of the highlights of the tournament came the first day when Lauren Ouellette's hit in extra innings scored Danielle Bongoro with the winning run against the Georgia Southern Pride.

After falling behind 5-1, the Cobras fought back to tie the score at 5, sending the game into extra innings.

Georgia scored a run in the top of the eighth, but NFWB came back with two in the bottom of the inning for the win. Lindsey Taub scored the tying run after a stolen base and an error. Monica Booth followed with a walk, Kristin Grewe beat out a bunt and two fielder's choice plays set up Ouellette's two-out, two-strike game-winning hit.

Ouellette had two hits with two RBI and scored a run. Kristin Schrock also had two hits with one run scored.

Beth Danielewicz had a hit and an RBI. Patty Kolinski and Bongoro, who scored three runs, also had hits.

Danielewicz earned the pitching win, giving up five hits and striking out 11.

The win, their second on the day, advanced the Cobras to the third round in the winners bracket of the double-elimination tournament.

NSA WORLD SERIES

In their third game, against the Indiana Force, the Cobras fell behind early but fought back behind Schrock's four innings of one-hit relief.

They closed the gap to 7-5 but stranded the bases loaded in the sixth and seventh. They outlasted Indiana 13-6.

Schrock and Bongoro had three hits each and Taub had two. Grewe, Bongoro and Taub knocked in runs while Ouellette, Danielewicz, Schrock and Taub scored runs for NFWB. Booth, Hilary Goldin, Ouellette, Danielewicz and Grewe also hit safely.

The Cobras then faced the Knoxville Braves. Danielewicz's two-run double in the fourth gave NFWB the lead and Goldin's hit, following a sacrifice by Taub, knocked in what turned out to be the winning run.

Ouellette's two-run double in the first knocked in Kelly Taylor and Schrock. Kolinski had the other RBI, also in the first. Schrock and Bongoro also hit safely. Danielewicz notched the win, giving up six hits and striking out six.

NFWB's second loss came against the Carolina Crush.

Ouellette and Kolinski had two hits each, including triples. Taylor also had a triple. Goldin and Taub had the other hits. Bongoro knocked in a run and Ouellette scored the lone run. Schrock pitched well, giving up five hits. Although NFWB outlasted the Crush, 7-5, they stranded runners on third base four times.

Mark Danielewicz, Tom Ouellette and Les Taub are the coaches.

Founders Sports Park plays host to softball tourney

It's only appropriate that a team called the Motor City Madness will be a co-host in the Amateur Softball Association Girls 16-and-under Fastpitch National Championship.

Approximately 80 teams from across the country, including the defending champion Fresno (Calif.) Force, will converge this week at Founders Sports Park in Farmington Hills and Power Park in Novi.

The madness begins in earnest with tournament pool play starting at 8 a.m. Tuesday at both sites, which contain five fields each.

The championship bracket of the double-elimination tourney gets underway

at 1 p.m. Wednesday and run right through until in the championship game at 4 p.m. Sunday (6 p.m. if necessary).

The other local co-host from the Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association, is Compuware.

Motor City Madness is managed by former Livonia Franklin All-Stater and ex-University of Detroit first baseman Gar Frantz.

Along with assistant coaches Bill Crews and John Fitzgerald, Frantz has put together a potent lineup.

Madness has compiled an impressive 36-10 record this summer, including a respectable 7-3 mark in the Ann Arbor

Women's Fastpitch League.

Madness has captured the state ASA and USSSA 16-and-under titles. They also finished fourth behind three California squads in a World Qualifier.

Three of the team's original members played together on the NSA 12-and-under national championship squad — pitcher/third baseman Amanda Fitzgerald (Byron High School);

outfielder/pitcher Joelle Frantz (Novi); and infielder Katie Cameron (Novi). Fitzgerald, an All-Stater, is 20-8 with a .022 earned run average. She is also hitting .327.

Frantz, hitting .361, has combined with Fitzgerald to strike out over 700

high school batters.

Meanwhile, Cameron leads the team in hitting with a .368 average.

Second-year Madness players include the Crews sisters from Westland John Glenn — Samantha, a shortstop who played slow-pitch last summer with Finesse, and Stephanie, a catcher-shortstop.

Stephanie, just 13, an incoming freshman at Glenview, is hitting .341 and leads the team in homers with nine.

She doubled twice in a game recently against Jamie Gillies, the University of Michigan's No. 2 pitcher.

"Stephanie has the ability to hit the long ball and just has a great arm,"

Frantz said. "She just steps up and hits it hard."

"She's got to be one of the top ten 14-year-olds in the country."

Two Farmington Hills Mercy players also provide solid play.

Outfielder Dana Falvo came over from Compuware, while catcher-infielder-outfielder Erin Carson (.351) has been with Madness since she was 14.

Rounding out the Madness roster is Theresa Flowers, who helped Waterford Kettering capture the Division I state girls softball title; Jackie Runa, Waterford Out Lady of the Lakes; Meghan Honke, Byron; Kim Klever, Dexter; and Laura Burkhardt, Whitmore Lake.

Stingers from page D1

She allowed seven hits and a pair of walks.

Team players this summer included: Leah Moeller, Shayla O'Mara, Terri Schroeder, Kate Homant, Kerry Fitzgerald and Erin Fitzgerald of Farmington Hills Mercy; Jen Elwell and Janine Kurpiel of Dearborn

Divine Child; LeAnne Schraufnagle of Livonia Stevenson; Wendy Benas of Livonia Ladywood; Marissa Melchior of Regina; Melissa Baliko of Hartland; Rachel Viers of Onsted; Allison Lueck of Franklin Road Christian; and Kelly Sylvester of Garden City.

Cobras from page D1

strong pitching performances for the first six innings. Zerbo had another big game at the plate going 3 for 3 with two runs batted in, including his third home run.

Matt Clark and Vitanis each contributed two hits on offense.

Outstanding Cobra performances for the Series included Pickens, who led the team with a .625 batting average and a .684 on base percentage. Zerbo batted

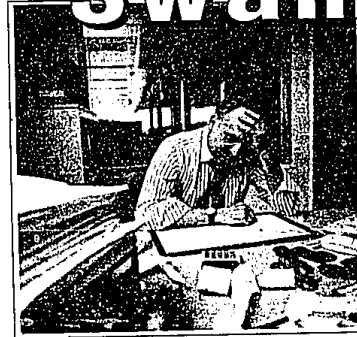
.555 with three homers and eight runs scored.

Bryan Smith led the team with six RBIs and batted .400. Petry batted .500, Wingert .454 and Lentz .438.

NFWB finished with an overall season record of 33-21.

The Cobras were coached in the World Series by former Detroit Tigers' pitcher Dan Petry, Randy Rodriguez, Bill Clark and Kevin Wilkenson.

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